

It shall be the duty of the Director of Public Health, upon the presentation of such application, to make or cause to be made strict inquiry into the facts set out in such application, and if upon such inquiry he shall find such dispensary or clinic is or is intended to be so constructed and equipped as to afford proper accommodations for the care of persons treated or proposed to be treated therein, and that the person or persons or intended person or persons responsible for the maintenance and conduct of said dispensary or clinic, and the person or persons actually conducting the care given to patients as defined in this ordinance fulfill the requirements defined by this ordinance, and if in the Director's opinion it is for the public's benefit, and the rules and regulations and minimum standards provided for in this ordinance are being carried out, then the Director of Public Health shall issue a permit therefor.

**Section 4.** It shall be the duty of the Director of Public Health to establish rules, regulations and minimum standards for the establishment, operation and management of dispensary or clinic so licensed and to approve the methods of collecting funds from the public, and regulating the purposes and objects to which said funds are

**Section 5.** The Director of Public Health or authorized assistant may at any or all times visit and inspect the dispensary or clinic. He may examine all matters in relation to said dispensary and clinic and ascertain how far they are conducted in compliance with the rules and regulations and minimum standards laid down by him. After due notice to a dispensary, and opportunity for it to be heard, the Director of Public Health may, if public interest demands, and for just and reasonable cause, revoke a license by written order. Such an order shall state the reason for revoking such license, and the time at which such revocation shall take effect and when, at the discretion of the Director of Public Health, the activities of the dispensary or clinic may be resumed.

**Section 6.** Any person, place, establishment, corporation, institution, association or agent advertising or maintaining a clinic or dispensary as defined in this ordinance without first having obtained a license therefor as provided in this ordinance or after revocation of such license under the authority conferred by this ordinance to the Director of Public Health, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$10 and not more than \$200 for each offense.

**Section 7.** Any person or persons who wilfully violate any of the provisions of this ordinance or do not carry out the rules and regulations and minimum standards laid down by the Director of Public Health shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$10 and not more than \$200.

**Section 8.** Any person or persons who obtain medical or surgical care or other treatment of whatever kind from a licensed dispensary or clinic on false representation shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$10 and not more than \$200.

**Section 9.** All ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

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#### ADDENDA—TWO DEFINITIONS OF A "CLINIC"

In the editorial comments concerning the San Francisco clinic ordinance, reference was made to a tentative draft of a proposed state clinic ordinance which was formulated several years ago by the Advisory Medical Board of the Health Department of the County of Los Angeles. Two of the tentative definitions which were then formulated are here printed.

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**Section 1.** For the purpose of this act, a dispensary is defined to be any place or establishment not conducted for profit where medical or surgical advice or treatment for any ailment, deformity, disease, disorder, or injury or other physical condition of any person is furnished or where therapeutic apparatus is used on or furnished to persons not resident therein, or any place or establishment whether conducted for charitable purposes or profit and advertised, announced, conducted or maintained under the name "dispensary," "health center," "clinic" or other designation of like import.

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**Section 1.** For the purpose of this article, a clinic or dispensary or health center or health association or organization with designation of similar import, is defined as any institution or establishment, public or private, whose purpose it is, whether independently or in connection with any other purpose, directly or indirectly, to give advice, diagnosis, or treatment bearing upon the physical or mental health of individuals nonresident therein. Provided that the offices used for private practice by a licensed practitioner of any mode of healing the sick or injured, and who is properly licensed in California; and that any offices or rooms used exclusively for healing by any form of prayer or religious practice shall not be deemed to come within the meaning of the above definition.

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO\*

### EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. V, No. 8, August 1907

*From some editorial notes:*

*The Supreme Court and the Arwine Case.*— . . . One James T. Arwine brought suit against the Board of Medical Examiners, along in the latter part of last year, to compel them to issue to him a license to practice medicine in this state, the board having refused to grant such license for the reason that the credentials of preliminary and medical education of the plaintiff did not comply with the standards required under the act regulating the practice of medicine. . . .

. . . The whole case really hinged upon that provision of the law which fixes the requirement of a medical college whose diplomas may be recognized by our Board of Medical Examiners. In order that the whole matter may be clearly before you, it seems well to make some extracts from the decision of the Supreme Court, in bank, July 8, 1907. . . .

. . . The foregoing decision is signed by Angellotti and concurred in by Shaw, Sloss, Henshaw, Lorigan, and McFarland. Now let us cease from this over-ripe anxiety about the constitutionality of the Medical Practice Act. Every essential part of it has been pronounced constitutional. . . .

*From an article on "The Intensity of the Pulmonic Sound in Mitral Incompetence" by William Watt Kerr, M.D.*

. . . The statement is generally made that in cases of mitral incompetence the pulmonic sound is accentuated so long as compensation exists, and in nearly every textbook this change in the second cardiac sound is mentioned as occurring with such regularity as to constitute one of the physical signs diagnostic of mitral regurgitation. My own experience has been such as to make me doubt whether this changed second sound occurs with such frequency as to warrant us in attributing such a constant value to it. . . .

*From an article on "The X-Rays as a Therapeutic Factor in Dermatology" by D. Friedlander, M.D., San Francisco.*

The credit of the first attempt at utilization of the roentgen rays as a method of treatment in dermatology must be accorded to Freund of Vienna, who, in 1900, attempted to treat a case of pigmented nevus pileferous which resisted the ordinary methods of treatment. . . .

. . . Since then medical literature has been replete with favorable reports on the use of the rays in dermatology, and, at the present date, there can be no doubt as to their therapeutic efficacy.

*From an article on "Suggestions on Methods of Attacking Typhoid Fever in San Francisco" by H. A. Ryfkogel, M.D., San Francisco.*

It will not be necessary to enter now into a discussion of the etiology of typhoid fever since it may be considered as established, and this paper will deal very briefly with the points by which the disease is carried, the methods to be adopted in studying the present endemic in San Francisco, and finally the means that should be used to prevent the further spread of, and stamp out, the disease.

\* This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of state society work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and recent members.

*From an article on "The Management of Placenta Previa, with a Report of Seven Cases" by A. B. Spaulding, M.D., San Francisco.*

Placenta previa is not such a rare obstetrical complication, but any physician in general practice of medicine may at any hour be suddenly and most unexpectedly called upon to manage this dramatic obstetrical crisis.

*From a report on "California Pure Food Commission" by George H. Kress, M.D., Secretary, Los Angeles, Cal.*

The Los Angeles members of the State Pure Food Commission, under guidance of the health officer of Los Angeles, Dr. L. M. Powers, who is also the chairman of the Pure Food Committee of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, recently made two dairy inspection tours, each trip covering about seventy-five miles of territory. . . .

. . . The Pure Food Commission hopes to be able to present, some time soon, plans of dairy structures that will be both hygienic and economical in construction. . . .

The Commission spent a number of evenings in joint session with Dr. L. M. Powers, health officer of Los Angeles, who desired to have Los Angeles adopt an ordinance that would minimize the smoke nuisance. An ordinance was finally drawn up and presented to the Council, and will come up for first consideration on July 13. Its fate is hard to foretell, for the large gas and other corporations will be pitted against it.

## CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

By GILES S. PORTER, M. D.

Director

**Scarlet Fever More Prevalent.**—In many communities of California more cases of scarlet fever are being reported than have been reported during the past two years. Health officers who publish monthly mimeographed bulletins have commented on the increased prevalence of the disease in their respective communities. The disease is generally of a mild type, but occasionally a severe form of the disease is encountered. Even with mild cases the after effects may be serious, if not disastrous. It is highly important that adequate care be given to each case and it is of equal importance that all cases of the disease be discovered and placed under control in order that the spread of the disease may be checked. The mere fact that the disease is of a mild form often hinders progress in the control of scarlet fever.

**Rat Flea May Spread Typhus Fever.**—Several months ago the announcement was made by the United States Public Health Service that endemic typhus fever, which has been recognized for several years in the United States, had been shown to be transmitted by fleas.

Additional studies indicate that the rat flea is the agent that transmits this condition. This work has been proven by laboratory experiments and by field studies, all of which have been conducted by the Public Health Service. There seems to be ample evidence that endemic typhus fever is spread from rat to rat by the rat flea, and from rat to man by the same agency.

**Food Faddists.**—Probably the most fertile field of quackery today is that pertaining to diet. Self-styled "doctors" and "professors" would have you believe that white bread is poison; that fasting will cure all human ills; that to eat proteins and carbohydrates at the same meal is to court nutritional disaster, and

similar fantastic theories. The general public is so profoundly ignorant of even the elementary facts of the science of nutrition that the food faddist with a theory and the food quack with a scheme make profitable appeals to such ignorance. Most of the advocates of freak dietary systems are shysters, but there may be some fanatics in the field who believe in their own magic. To those whose knowledge of the chemistry of food is limited to the elementary superficialities of the secondary schools, the food faddists can talk glibly of carbohydrates, proteins, fats, mineral salts and, most wonderful of all, vitamins—and his claims, preposterous but plausible, are given serious consideration. As a result, we have a veritable plague of "diet experts" who dispense vast quantities of platitudes, piffle, and pernicious misinformation on the subject of nutrition. . . .

**Danger in Home Canning of Vegetables.**—The present economic depression may be responsible for stimulating activity among housewives in the home canning of surplus vegetables from home gardens. The California Department of Public Health issues a warning to home canners relative to the danger to health that lies in improper sterilization of such vegetables.

The chief danger lies in the possible contraction of botulism, a highly fatal disease which may occur through eating improperly packed food products. Powerful toxins or poisons may develop in home-canned vegetables, which are not heated sufficiently nor for a long enough period of time. It is almost impossible to secure adequate heat penetration without the use of a pressure cooker. Since pressure cookers are not always available because of their cost, it has been suggested that several families, or a community, purchase such equipment for the use of groups of individuals. One pressure cooker might be made to serve fifteen or twenty families.

More cases of botulism have occurred through the use of home-canned string beans than any other product. Cases have occurred, however, through the consumption of home-canned spinach, peas, corn, asparagus, and other vegetables. The cold pack method of home canning should never be used under any circumstances. This method was advocated during the war, but because of the unfavorable results that followed the use of this method it is recommended that it be discarded entirely. If the pressure cooker is not available, the vegetables may be dehydrated. A dependable publication on the subject, "The Home Evaporator," can be obtained from the Department of Agriculture and Home Economics of the State College of Agriculture, University of California, Berkeley. This publication gives directions for building and using the evaporator for preparing fresh vegetables and fruits and for caring for them after drying. The cost of building this equipment is negligible and it is far safer to use this method of preservation than to use any home canning process except the steam pressure cooker.

At this season of the year, when home canning is starting, this warning should be heeded. Failure to accept this warning may result in needless suffering and possible death.

**Jimson Weed Poisoning.**—An unusual outbreak of food poisoning occurred in San Joaquin County on June 14 of this year. Fourteen out of twenty-one farm laborers employed on a ranch about three miles from Stockton were taken suddenly ill about thirty minutes after eating dinner at the ranch house. Due to weakness in the legs they collapsed immediately. There was dryness of the throat, thickness of the tongue, dizziness, blindness, dilated pupils, rapid pulse, delirium, incoherent muttering, picking at the bed clothes, and retention of urine. There was no temperature, nausea, vomiting, nor diarrhea.

At first the symptoms seemed to be those of botulism, but an intensive investigation undertaken by Dr. J. J. Sippy, health officer of San Joaquin County,